

The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts McKee

Benighted Women

(A college professor has asserted that women are distinctly an inferior sex, and practically an inferior species of men, so far as commercial or intellectual ability is concerned.)

She does not have the intellect to plot and plan and scheme,
To make a transportation trust by starting with a team;
She's deaf to Opportunity—it knocks her door in vain—
She never realizes what a chance there is for gain,
She can not corner fuel, nor monopolize a food,
And get the dozing public in a place to soak it good.

She's partial to contentment—and her ready tears will flow
When she discovers others who are bent with grief and woe;
When someone meets misfortune she will quickly sympathize,
But to make a fortune from it is a feat she never tries.
Oh, woman is a failure! She has never found the way
To put up the price of something and to make the others pay.

Why, woman's mind is always on the styles in lace or silk—
Who was it thought of putting some preservatives in milk?
Who was it thought of dousing nasty chemicals on meats?
Who was it thought of putting faulty pavements in the streets?
Who first sold beans for coffee, or made pepper out of bark?
When women try commercial life they're groping in the dark!

Oh, woman is a failure! Why the best that she can do
Is to struggle for ideals and to olden faiths be true,
Is to croon above her babies, is to softly sing and smile
And to fill our path with sunshine as we journey all the while.
But, speaking of successes, only man knows what is meant
For the weak, benighted women seldom plan to steal a cent.
—St. Louis Republic.

Something About the Scalp

If a vine is skillfully trimmed, nourished and given the treatment best adapted to its nature, it will grow and be healthy; but if, in caring for the top, its roots are neglected, or roughly treated by the application of liquids detrimental to them, the vine is certain to dwindle until it finally gives up the struggle altogether. Given the proper treatment of the roots, and the top will grow luxuriantly in almost any position. So with the human hair. Intelligent care is necessary that the roots be well nourished, and if this is done, there will be little to complain of. But what we do not know about the nature and needs of the hair and its sources of vigor, far exceeds the little we do know. It is claimed that in case of accidental removal of the scalp, where bits from the scalp of another person's head have been successfully grafted on the wound, while these bits have become permanently identified with the scalp to which they have been transferred, each bit continued to produce hair like that originally grown by its natural possessor. Like plants that are transplanted from one bed to another, transplanted hair maintains

its distinctive quality of texture and color, almost, if not quite unchanged. No tonic, food or nostrum that will benefit all growths of hair alike, has ever been discovered. When we desire to make the hair thrifty and of permanent color, our intelligence is as limited as our knowledge of its nature, and attempts to change the conditions of the hair have, as a rule, been not only futile, but in some cases, destructive. Usually, the health of the body governs the health of the hair; but not always. The scalp has troubles of its own, the alleviation of many of them being entirely beyond our ability.

Bleaching Faded Garments

Cotton garments may be bleached white by this method: Into one pailful of water put one heaping tablespoonful of chloride of lime. When dissolved, soak the garment in it overnight, then remove and boil twenty minutes in the same sort of solution, freshly made, take out and rinse thoroughly in several waters to free the cloth from the lime solution, which is apt to rot it, if not removed. Then hang to dry.

To bleach white goods, into eight quarts of warm water stir one pound of chloride of lime, stirring until the lime is dissolved. Add to this five pailfuls of warm water, stir well and put in the cotton goods. This amount should bleach about twenty-five yards of muslin. Let the goods remain in the solution for an hour, lifting and stirring and turning about with two sticks until every part is bleached; then rinse it well to get the lime out as much as possible, wring out, and place it in a solution of four ounces of hypo-sulphite of soda to each gallon of water. The lime solution will injure the hands, but the chemical action of the lime and soda will form a new compound harmless to both hands and goods. After stirring it well through the hypo-sulphite of soda solution, rinse in the usual way and hang to dry. When done with either solution, throw it out, as it must be made fresh each time it is to be used. Only linen or cotton can be put through this process if wanted white, as animal fiber will be yellowed by it. Chloride of lime will cost ten cents per pound can. The hypo-sulphite of soda is the same used by photographers, and will cost ten cents per can.

Solutions of lime and soda for bleaching purposes are sold at the drug stores, with directions for using on the labels. Be sure to state whether it is wanted for discharging color from vegetable or animal fiber, or for bleaching cotton or linen.

Fashion Notes

The Jersey, or princess dress with plaited skirt section, is one of the latest fads. The Jersey waist is one of the old-time fashions in improved form. Some of them are beaded, some embroidered, and many are plain. As few seams as possible are allowed; the Jersey cloth is very wide and comes in most beautiful colors, the dark shades being the most popular. It is either silk, or mercerized.

Skirts are growing in width, but fall in perfectly straight lines. Many novel back and side-back draperies are worn. The widest latitude is allowed in coats and suits; one may choose a long or short coat, a loose

or close-fitting one, with the assurance of being in style.

Belts at the natural waist-line are again to be worn. This, does not mean that the Empire, Princess, or long-waisted gowns are out of style, but that all may be suited.

Many arm-coverings are half to three-quarter length, but these are for dressy occasions and indoor wear. Tailored garments have long, snug-fitting sleeves. Sleeves of contrasting materials are in fashion again, and this will facilitate the making over of otherwise "impossible" garments; but the two materials must be combined with care to avoid a "patchy" effect.

Combinations of plaid and plain materials are very popular for young people. The tendency to fitted coats is becoming more marked, and many are cut to give the elongated waist-line, with plaited lower skirt section. Children's coats are made in long, straight effects. For misses wear, the shorter coat is favored. The Moyan age dress and yoke skirt are popular for misses.

Buttons of all descriptions are popular, and jet trimming is more popular than ever.

For the Toilet

In the care of the hair, nature strives to spare humanity the unhappy results of its own ignorance, but she is not always successful. Sometimes the failure is due to an improper use of words or terms, or to indistinct instructions coming from the best sources of information that we have. Thus, for example, we are advised to brush the hair with a stiff brush, and to do this vigorously every day, and this attention is most conscientiously accorded. But in our zeal, the scalp is also vigorously brushed, which was not advised, or intended. We do not drag a harrow over growing plants with its sharp teeth pressed into the soil to a destructive depth. Friction is good for the scalp, but it should not be excessive, nor can it safely be applied by means of a stiff brush or with a sharp-toothed comb.

Do not use cheap, highly scented toilet soaps. All the cheaper kinds are made of inferior ingredients, the use of poor or rancid fats and oils, with strong alkalies, and the perfume is used to cover up these frauds. Pure soap is either yellow or white, according to the materials used; coloring in any other shade comes from dyes, which are not always harmful. Transparent soaps are made by dissolving dry tallow soaps in alcohol, and are no better than the others. Where it agrees with the skin, pure white castile soap is as good and harmless as any made; but not all cuticles will bear it. A mild soap is made as follows: Five parts of honey to four parts of castile, or other pure white vegetable oil soap, and three parts white wax. Stir together over a slow fire, using a porcelain-lined vessel, and add one dram of benzoin and one part storax. This may be used by mixing with a little water, and will cleanse the skin most effectually. At this time of year, care must be taken for the protection of the skin.

For the Home-Mother

Where there are little children, or where the mother is called out of bed in the night to attend the wants of herself or others, a bath

wrapper to throw over the night dress is of the greatest value. This may be very inexpensively made of a good quality of flannelette, or of elderdown, or even of Turkish towel-ing. Nothing is more sensible than that the mother should take care of herself, and on getting out of a warm bed, she should provide some such garment, as well as soft, warm slippers, which can be made of any thick, warm cloth, in order to protect herself against the chill that often opens the door for most serious ailments. Mothers are too careless in this respect.

Ammoniated Baking Powder

Mrs. M. K. wishes a formula for making baking powder containing baker's ammonia. The following recipe is given by one of our best authorities on cookery, but is not recommended, owing to the fact that it contains alum, which is hard on the stomach: Pulverize and thoroughly mix, after drying by gentle heat separately, one-fourth pound of tartaric acid, one-half pound of alum, three-fourths pound of pure bi-carbonate of soda, one pound of potato flour, and three ounces of sesquicarbonate of ammonia. Pass this mixture several times through a sieve, stirring, in order to thoroughly mix, then put at once into glass jars and seal tightly to exclude air and moisture. The quantity used in cooking is not given, but it is supposed that the usual amount used of ordinary baking powder may be right.

Contributed Recipes

Artificial Maple Syrup—Procure clean bark from a hickory tree of the shell-bark variety, and make a strong tea of this by boiling in water. Strain and use this tea with dark brown sugar to make a syrup. This can scarcely be distinguished from the real maple syrup.—Mrs. L. L., Kentucky.

Made Mustard—Slice a good sized onion and soak for twenty-four hours in one pint of good vinegar; then set the vinegar on the stove and boil up once; have ready a teacupful of dry ground mustard, one tablespoonful of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of black pepper and a pinch of cayenne; mix to a paste with cold vinegar, and when the vinegar boils, add the paste, stirring. If too thick, thin with more vinegar.—Mrs. L. M., Iowa.

When purchasing a roast of veal, have the butcher lard it with salt pork. This will make the meat juicy instead of its being dry, and it will have a fine flavor that can be had in no other way.

When boiling fish, let it come to a bubble after putting it in the boiling water, then allow it to cook just below the boiling point. If allowed to boil rapidly, the fish will fall to pieces. After the water has come to the bubbling point allow ten minutes to each pound. Season, after draining well, with butter, pepper and salt, or a nice white sauce.—Mrs. A. B., Ohio.

Apple Custard with Meringue—Make a boiled custard of the yolk of three eggs, a pint of milk and a small cupful of sugar; stir this into a pint of apple sauce flavored with lemon, and set where it will chill. Before serving put the beaten whites of the eggs on top, and decorate with small bits of currant, or other nice-colored jelly.—Housekeeper, Mo.

Men and the Boys

Mrs. Sarah T. Rorer, tells women that "no man should have anything to do with the bringing up of his son, other than providing food and clothing for him." It is supposed, the other necessary expenses of his up-bringing are included in this responsibility of the father. Mrs.